

### More About Bites by Aphis Lions (Neur.: Chrysopidae).

In the March, 1931, issue of the ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS, P. B. Barringer calls attention to the fact that larvae of Chrysopidae sometimes bite human beings. Dr. Barringer wishes to know whether or not this has been experienced elsewhere.

The writer finds that in South Dakota it is a common experience for individuals working out-of-doors to be bitten several times per year by *Chrysopa* larvae. While conducting his experimental field work and while on collecting trips, the writer has frequently been bitten several times per day by aphid lions. This has taken place regardless of the amount of rainfall that occurred during the season, or year. The writer is certain that in South Dakota there is no direct correlation between lack of precipitation and the frequency of attacks upon human beings by *Chrysopa* larvae. Undoubtedly, these attacks occur more frequently when the larvae are abundant, but this, in the opinion of the writer, is because more *Chrysopa* larvae are dislodged from the aphid infested plants when the aphid lions are more abundant than when they are scarce.

The matter of reaching a human body is entirely a matter of chance. In the spring and early summer of 1930, South Dakota experienced one of the worst aphid outbreaks that it ever had. The natural enemies of the aphids, including aphid lions, gradually increased in abundance, and by the middle of summer had reduced the plant lice to a negligible quantity. But even at the time when the aphids were most abundant, aphid lions attacked man when they happened to find themselves upon his body.

The after-effects upon man of the bites of an aphid lion have always been negligible in the experience of the writer, and have never been so severe as those described by Dr. Barringer.

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